

Message Text

SECRET

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64

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AF-04 PM-03 L-02 DODE-00 TRSE-00

MC-02 EB-03 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-10 DRC-01 /078 W

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R 101614Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3734

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T LONDON 11617

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, UK, SF, RH

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN ARMS SALE TO SOUTH AFRICA AND

PERHAPS RHODESIA

REF: LONDON 8862 (NOTAL); LONDON 9615 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BRITISH TEND TO CRIDIT NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT JORDAN HAS SOLD BRITISH TANKS AND ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILES TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND IS IN PROCESS OF SELLING AIRCRAFT FOR EVENTUAL DELIVERY TO RHODESIA DESPITE BRITISH OBJECTIONS AND FORMAL JORDANIAN ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY. PM WILSON HAS MENTIONED THE MATTER TO KING HUSSEIN. END SUMMARY.

1. SEVERAL LONDON NEWSPAPERS SEPTEMBER 10 REFER TO SALE OF 41 CENTURION TANKS AND A TIGERCAT ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILE SYSTEM BY JORDAN TO SOUTH AFRICA, AS WELL AS PROBABLE SALE OF 31 HAWKER HUNTER AIRCRAFT TO RHODESIA, VIA SOUTH AFRICA. MAIN STORY IS IN GUARDIAN, WHICH DID
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THE INVESTIGATION AND PRESENTS THE STORY IN DETAIL (COPIES

OF STORY POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, AMMAN, AND PRETORIA)
NEWSPAPERS SPECIFY THAT FCO HAS BEEN APPRISED AND HMG IS
CONCERNED.

2. FCO NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA DEPARTMENT ACTING HEAD
WILLIAMS TOLD US SAME DAY THAT FCO WAS CONCERNED AND IN-
VESTIGATING. PM WILSON MENTIONED MATTER TO KING HUSSEIN
DURING THEIR TALK SEPTEMBER 9. KING WAS NOT RPT NOT CONTRITE,
POINTING OUT THAT JORDAN NEEDED TO RAISE MONEY TO BUY
MORE MODERN REPLACEMENTS (IN US). HUSSEIN SAID HE
WOULD INVESTIGATE AFFAIR.

3. AS FAR AS FCO IS AWARE, GUARDIAN STORY MAY BE CORRECT
IN ALLEGING THAT CENTURIONS AND TIGERCAT HAVE ALREADY
ARRIVED IN SOUTH AFRICA, PERHAPS ACCOMPLANIED BY
JORDANIAN PERSONNEL AS CALLED FOR IN THE CONTRACT (EXTRACTS
OF WHICH ALSO APPEAR IN GUARDIAN). THERE IS INTIMATION
THAT TIGERCATS MAY BE GOING TO RHODESIA SINCE SOUTH
AFRICA IS PRODUCING OWN GROUND-TO-AIR CACTUS-CROTALE
MISSILES.

4. WILLIAMS SUGGESTED THAT SALE OF HUNTERS SOMEWHAT MORE
DOUBTFUL. HOWEVER, FCO IS NOT HAPPY, GIVEN BREACH OF
TRUST INVOLVED (SEE LONDON 9615).

5. WILLIAMS CITED IN THIS CONNECTION CIRCULAR NOTE SENT
TO OAU MISSION IN ADDIS ABABA BY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY THERE
PROTESTING, ON BEHALF OF JORDAN, THAT REPORTS OF ARMS
SALES TO RHODESIA ARE FALSE. THIS WOULD INDICATE THAT
EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH JORDANIANS ON THIS MATTER.
(NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT HUSSEIN ONLY HELD BACK ON
DEAL IN FIRST PLACE, IN JULY, AFTER PERSONAL CALL FROM SADAT.)

6. BRITISH ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT JORDANIANS WILL TELL
THEM NEXT.
SOHM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SALES, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON11617
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740252-0172
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740960/aaaabyso.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: LONDON 8862 (NOTAL); LONDON 9615 (NO, TAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN ARMS SALE TO SOUTH AFRICA AND PERHAPS RHODESIA
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, UK, SF, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005